

North Dakota Loan Repayment Policy and Procedure Manual

Veterinarians Loan Repayment Program

NDCC Chapter 43-29.1 as of 6/30/2017

Introduction

The North Dakota State Legislature has provided funding since 1994 to establish loan repayment programs for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, and dentists. In 2007, the legislature established a loan repayment program for veterinarians working in food animal medicine. The veterinarian loan repayment policies and procedures are outlined below.

Application Process

Loan repayment information and applications are available on the Primary Care Office website at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/pco/>. The applicant must submit a completed application form, verification of outstanding educational loans from the lender (making sure the address and loan amounts on all documents are the same), license or copy of the license application, three letters of reference, letters of community support, and curriculum vitae. Letters of reference may be submitted from a co-worker, the facility administrator where the applicant will be employed, a character reference, and if applicable, a professor who can document the educational skillset of the applicant. If you have any questions, regarding the application process or loan repayment program, please contact Bobbie Will at blwill@nd.gov or by phone at 701.328.4908.

Application Deadlines:

Complete applications are due to the Primary Care Office by **Wednesday, March 15**. Once received, reviewed and verified, applications will be forwarded to the State Health Council for consideration at the April or May meeting. Applicants will be notified by the Primary Care Office of the State Health Council's decision. Contracts will be issued by the North Dakota Department of Health.

Applications can be sent by email to blwill@nd.gov or by mail to
Bobbie Will, Primary Care Office Manager
600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301
Bismarck, ND 58505
Office 701.328.4908
Fax 701.328.4227

SECTION I: SITE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Site eligibility is based on the following criteria:
 - a. the size of the community;
 1. first priority is given to rural communities having a population under five thousand;
 2. second priority is to communities having a population between five thousand and ten thousand; and
 3. third priority to communities having a population greater than ten thousand.
 - b. the number of veterinarians practicing in the community and the surrounding area;

- c. the access by residents to veterinarians practicing in the community and the surrounding area; and
- d. the degree to which residents support the addition of a veterinarian within the community.

SECTION II: APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must:
 - a. have graduated from an accredited college of veterinary medicine;
 - b. be fully licensed to practice food animal veterinary medicine in North Dakota; and
 - c. be employed full-time in a private practice veterinary medicine clinic and commit to two, three, or four years of service in one or more selected communities.

SECTION III: FINANCIAL INCENTIVES/PENALTIES/PAYMENTS

Providers participating in the loan repayment program can enter into an agreement to practice up to four years and receive the following loan repayment assistance for outstanding educational loans from institutional lending agencies of the United States, Canada, or other countries.

State Funds	Disbursement Time Frame				To Whom Payments are Dispersed	Penalties
Up to \$80,000	6 mo.	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year	Lender	If an individual fails to complete an entire year of service, the amount repayable under this section for that year must be prorated.
	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000		

SECTION IV: RELEASE FROM CONTRACT OBLIGATION

1. The veterinarian has completed the service requirements of the contract.
2. The veterinarian is unable to complete the service requirement of the contract because of a permanent physical disability.
3. The veterinarian demonstrates to the State Health Council extreme hardship or shows other good cause justifying the release.
4. The veterinarian dies.

SECTION V: SELECTION OF VETERINARIAN APPLICANTS

The North Dakota State Board of Animal Health reviews and prioritizes all applicants and presented recommendations to the Health Council for approval at the February meeting. The applicants are reviewed and prioritized based on Sections I and II of this manual.